

Highlights of the 32nd Annual Meeting 1956

1956-57
COMMITTEE PROGRAM
No. 2

"The principle of democracy is that men and women have an equal claim upon the common good."

ISSUED BY
SASKATCHEWAN
CO-OPERATIVE PRODUCERS
LIMITED
REGINA, SASK.

HIGHLIGHTS

of the 32nd Annual Meeting

1956

The thirty-second Annual Meeting of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool was held in Regina, November 6th to November 16th. The Wheat Pool delegates, representing all the shareholders, reviewed the business in all departments for the year ending July 31st, 1956. The Balance Sheet was approved, and the figures tell a story of the benefits which farmers enjoy when working together. However, back of the Balance Sheet will be found the aims and objectives and the understanding and loyalty of the men and women who work for the success and progress of their own business.

Saskatchewan Wheat Pool

The Assets of the Company are owned and controlled by the shareholders on the basis of one member, one vote, and each shareholder's equity is built up through delivering his grain to his own Pool elevator, and his livestock to the Livestock Pool. The 166 elected delegates represented the shareholders at this Annual Meeting.

The assets include 1,145 Country Elevators together with annexes, bins, agents' cottages, etc., three terminal elevators, Head Office building, the Modern Press, Vegetable Oil Plant and Flour Mill, Stockyards, repair parts and supplies, investment and memberships, accounts receivable, together with a large number of miscellaneous items and working capital of \$6,641,069.86. The net value of these assets as at July 31st, 1956, is shown on the books at \$31,965,993.81. Based on present day replacement costs, this book value is very low.

The direct investment of the shareholders in the organization consists of members' fees, \$141,227.00; elevator deductions \$16,-

244,612.52; commercial reserves \$8,753,-31; Livestock Credits \$65,763.74; a total of \$25,205,384.57.

During the year, 4,573 new members joined the Organization.

Elevator Deductions and Commercial Reserves

The policy of revolving deductions has been continued, and up to July 31st, 1956, Elevator Deductions and Commercial Reserves totalling \$17,370,574.39 have been purchased and re-allocated to current member-patrons who have delivered grain to Pool Elevators. The sum of \$1,856,537.50 has been provided from this year's earnings for transferring deductions, bringing the total to \$19,227,111.89.

Paid to Member-Patrons—1925-1955

From 1925 to 1955 the sum of \$49,216,-115.28 has been paid out in cash or credits to the member-patrons since the Pool was organized.

Country Organization Department

This Department includes Wheat Pool Committees, delegates, fieldmen, travelling superintendents, agents, livestock Pool personnel, all of whom work closely together and have a responsibility to further the interests of the Pool and membership through co-operation.

During the year, District Representatives attended 3,092 meetings of all kinds with an estimated attendance of 122,028. At 638 of these motion pictures were shown. In addition, there were personal visits to 3,935 farmers, 2,043 business men, and 2,957 Pool Elevator Agents. The Fieldmen also conducted 46 one-day co-operative schools, Citizenship Days and Rallies. Six one-week co-operative schools were held with a total attendance of 459 young people.

The Country Organization Department again worked with the University of Saskatchewan in organizing a Leadership Course and Regional Agricultural short courses (six weeks) under the Dominion-Provincial Youth Training Program. Plans are already under way to continue these courses during the coming winter.

The Country Organization Department has also assisted in strengthening local operative associations, Credit Unions, and other community projects, and has worked with agricultural representatives in the 4-H Club program.

The work of promoting the sale and use of Pool Co-op Flour has been carried on throughout the year, and in this work many Wheat Pool Committees and Womens' Co-operative Guilds took an active part. Guidance has also been given to local Committees in organizing and assembling co-operative livestock shipments.

Wheat Pool Committees and Committee Conventions

During the year, 1,061 Wheat Pool Committees reported re-organization out of a total of 1,108 active Wheat Pool Committees in the Province. The Committees continue to be the strength in Country Organization work. They are the important voice through which the membership is informed on the progress of the Wheat Pool in all Departments. During the year, the sum of \$27,720.00 in remuneration was paid on application Committees who reported holding four or more meetings.

The Annual program of 127 Committee Conventions was attended by 7,220 people.

The Agenda provided for the reports of Committee work during the year, a review of the Wheat Pool's business operations and policies. The operations of the Canadian Wheat Board and the International Wheat Agreement were also outlined by the Director. "Discussion Groups" were continued with satisfactory participation. Many resolutions were passed, and all these help to form Pool policy.

Country and Terminal Elevators

Deliveries to Pool Country Elevators last season amounted to 158,024,000 bushels as compared with 132,939,000 bushels in the previous season. The average delivery per elevator amounted to 138,000 bushels. For the past season, 47.68% of all grain delivered in Saskatchewan was delivered through Pool Elevators, as compared to 46.05% in previous year.

Pool terminals handled 80,838,509 bush- which amounts to 24.18% of the total western grain unloading at the Lakehead. During the year, 21,166,390 bushels had to be diverted to other Terminals.

In 1955-56, \$3,645,169.18 was made available to pay for all phases of construction, maintenance and improvement of Country Elevators, annexes and agents' dwellings. When all this program is completed the total Country Elevator storage capacity will be well over 80 million bushels.

Providing additional storage space is not the complete answer to the farmers' delivery problem. The volume of grain which can be handled through an elevator now depends almost entirely on the distribution of boxcars at the point. In view of experience in recent years, as well as at the present time, it is plain to see that if growers are to have an opportunity of making maximum use of the elevators and terminals which they own, the method of distributing boxcars will have to be changed.

Port of Churchill

From August 1st, 1955 to July 31st, 1956 Pool Elevators shipped 7,168,270 bushels to Churchill, which was 50.13% of all grain shipped to this port.

Carlot shipments from the Prairies to Churchill are usually only from those points having the freight rate preference and on C.N.R. lines.

Flour Mill

The Mill operated for 260 days and produced about 545,000 barrels of flour. There has been a small decrease in Domestic sales of first patent flour. The competition of the American "Give-away Program" effected the Export Sales as well. The sale of Mill Feeds were 17,157 tons.

After paying all operating expenses there was a net surplus of \$2,768.68. Capacity of the Mill is 2,000 barrels per day.

Vegetable Oil Plant

The Vegetable Oil Plant operated 103 days on flax seed, and 99 days on rapeseed. amount of flax processed in 1955-56 was 13,498,930 pounds compared with 7,937,920

pounds last year. The amount of rapeseed processed was 12,495,940 pounds compared with 9,567,150 pounds a year ago. After providing all operating costs the Vegetable Oil Plant showed a net surplus of \$130,725.00. It is hoped that the Plant will operate to full capacity in 1956-57.

Printing and Publishing Division

The Western Producer has a circulation of 145,081 which is a small decrease from the previous year.

This paper continues to provide strength and support to farm programs, and to express opinions on policies and practices which affect the well being of the farmers in Western Canada. The Womens' and Youth Sections are very popular.

After providing for depreciation on fixed assets and paying all operating costs there was a net operating loss of \$108,072.19. Delegates gave very careful consideration to the financial problems of the Modern Press and The Western Producer.

Livestock Division

Yards are owned and operated at North Battleford, Regina, Swift Current, and Yorkton, and agencies at Moose Jaw, Prince Albert and Saskatoon. At St. Boniface, the Wheat Pool is part owner of Canadian Livestock Co-operative (Western) Limited. The number of cattle and calves marketed co-operatively was 221,370, which is 46.53% of the total provincial marketings. Hogs marketed co-operatively were 193,846 head, or 32.44% of the total provincial marketing; 18,718 sheep and lambs were sold through co-operative channels.

The auction method of selling livestock is optional, and is in operation at all market centres. At the present time, this method is quite popular with the seller, and will remain so, as long as the bidding is strong and the buyers are active on a market. Experienced co-operative livestock men are present on all markets where their knowledge of grades and values is available to the producers.

The gross value of all livestock handled co-operatively in 1955-56 was \$29,824.72 as compared to the total of \$28,185,-

705.53 in the previous year. After making provision for depreciation and for Dominion and Provincial Income Taxes, the surplus of \$142,061.07 was transferred to Reserve Account.

Pool Insurance

Space will not permit a report on Canadian Pool Agencies Limited, which shows a net surplus of \$71,676.62. Pool Insurance Company had a net surplus of \$625,794.26. The report of Canadian Co-operative Producers Limited is included in the 32nd Annual Report, a copy of which will be mailed to all members of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool.

Surpluses for the Year

The balance sheet for the year ending 31st of July 1956 showed a surplus of \$4,574,573.07. This was allocated as follows:

Excess charges refund.....	\$3,526,937.50
Provision for Income Tax	
(Estimated).....	530,000.00
Transferred to Reserve Account	517,635.57

The patronage refund works out to 2 3/16 cents per bushel of all grain delivered to Pool Elevators by Pool members during the year ending 31st of July 1956 and was allocated on the following basis: 1 cent per bushel amounting to \$1,563,400.00 to be paid in cash and 1 3/16 cents per bushel amounting to \$1,856,537.50 to revolve deductions and to be credited to the persons entitled to the patronage dividend. This large additional sum available for this purpose, will enable the organization to continue revolving these deductions on a larger scale than in previous years. Patronage Dividend for livestock will be credited to member-patrons as follows: cattle 56 cents per head, calves 23 cents and hogs, sheep and lambs 14 cents per head.

Members' Opinions in Action

Resolutions sent in during the year from committees or from Wheat Pool Public Meetings, together with resolutions from Committee Conventions and District Delegates Meetings are made available to the Resolutions Committee. This Committee is made up of one delegate from each district who was elected at the Annual District Meeting of Delegates last December. The resolu-

tions are examined by the Resolutions Committee and in due course the resolutions they select are presented to the General Meeting at the time the topic referred to is before the Meeting. Any delegate, of course, has the right to offer an Amendment or present a new Resolution. In this manner, democratic policy is formed, guidance is given, and progress made.

The Thirty-second Annual Report is one of the most important documents in Canada. In it will be found particulars on the Western Agricultural Conference, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, the International Wheat Agreement, interviews with Governments, etc.

In this day and age, most of the world's trade is carried on through Governments dealing with Governments, or through Government Agencies and Boards, who issue import and export licenses so that finances can be arranged for much needed food and raw materials. In all transactions the interest and welfare of the grower must be considered and protected.

Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe, Rt. Hon. J. Gardiner, Mr. Geo. McIvor, Chairman Canadian Wheat Board, and members of the Board of Grain Commissioners, attended and addressed the meeting and answered questions pertaining to marketing policies and marketing of wheat and other grains.

The ability of your organization to influence opinion at the national and international level is directly in proportion to the degree of support of the co-operative movement by individual members.